



PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006

For Immediate Release

September 1, 2005

Contact Person

Peter M. Jarosz
Assistant U.S. Attorney

UNION OFFICIAL CHARGED IN FEDERAL COURT WITH EMBEZZLEMENT

Madison, Wisconsin – Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced today the filing of an Information charging Michael Rice, DOB: 5/28/48, of Madison, Wisconsin, with embezzlement from Local 538 of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW).

The Information charges that between September 2000 and April 2004, Michael Rice embezzled \$30,210.92 from the local union by submitting false claims for expenses supposedly incurred in attending meetings with the UFCW in Chicago, Illinois, as well as with Wisconsin Vision and the AFL-CIO, both in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, when no such meetings ever took place.

According to the information, Michael Rice was the President of Local 538 of the UFCW during the time period of the embezzlement, and he had been President of Local 538 since the late 1980s. The UFCW is an international union representing approximately 1.4 million workers in the United States and Canada in a wide range of fields including meatpacking and food processing. Local 538 of the UFCW is located in

Madison, Wisconsin, and represents employees of Oscar Mayer, Madison, Wisconsin; Tyson Foods, Jefferson, Wisconsin; and Jones Dairy, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

If convicted, Rice faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years supervised release.

The charges against Michael Rice were the result of an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor Management Standards. Prosecution of the case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

#